NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
July 31, 1997

Welcome!

Sandy Karuschak joined the department as the Director of Special Gifts on July 21. In this new position, she is responsible for raising funds for special exhibitions, including **Life Underground; ASSIGNMENT RESCUE: The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee;** Philippine Festival and Exhibit; and the Chicago Millennium Celebration.

Sandy comes to the Museum from Court Theatre at the University of Chicago, where she served for over ten years as Managing Director. She brings extensive experience in developing and managing fund raising programs, as well as working closely with trustees and volunteers. Sandy has played an active role in the theater community, serving as President of the Producers Association of the Chicago area Theatres, as a board member of the League of Chicago Theatres, and a grant review panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. Currently residing in Brookfield, Sandy received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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Stacy Jane Rhoads joins the Development Department on August 4 as the Coordinator of the Friends Groups. She will staff the Friends of the Field Museum Library, the Collections Committee and the annual fund for our donor groups.

Stacy comes to the Museum having completed her M.A. in the Program in Social Sciences at the University of Chicago and her B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology at Purdue University. We welcome Stacy to the Development Department and The Field Museum. She can be reached at ext. 874.

Willard E. White
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CCUC CONTACTING CHICAGO

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change (CCUC) is pleased to welcome summer intern **Eve Rasmussen,** who will be working under the guidance of Special Projects Coordinator **Madeleine Tudor** and Director **Alaka Wali** (both CCUC). This summer, Eve is working with the assistance of videographer Laura Litten to find sites for a proposed internship program in urban and public anthropology. Her task is to contact community organizations in which The Field Museum could place anthropology students from various Chicago universities to do short research projects. These research findings will then be used at the Museum to improve cultural understanding throughout Chicago. Eve has already interviewed many people who are passionately committed to their communities and who strongly support The Field Museum's Internship Program. Eve will begin her senior year at Northwestern University in the fall as a double major in Cultural Anthropology and Film Studies.

SNAKES-R-US: A REPORT FROM THAILAND

In June and July Curator **Harold Voris,** Research Associate **Daryl Karns** and Field Associate **John Murphy** (all Zoology, Amphibians and Reptiles), conducted a mark-and-recapture study of the rainbow water snake, Enhydris enhydris, near the small village of Ban Tha Hin on the southeast coast of Lake Songkla in southern Thailand. Their field work was very successful, with more than 200 snakes being captured and marked with PIT tags (small microchips). After several days of trapping and marking snakes, the recapture rate reached 40%. In addition, the movements of some snakes were monitored closely using surgically-implanted radio transmitters. The data will supply an estimate of population size and some insight into the home ranges of these very abundant reptiles. The field work was accomplished with the cooperation of colleagues from the Thai Royal Forestry Department, Prince of Songkla University, the National Science Museum of Thailand, and the Phuket Marine Biological Center. Despite the successful nature of the water snake study, the work was plagued with logistical problems that ranged from a minor traffic accident to Research Associate **Tanya Canard** (Zoology, and past ATP participant) contracting malaria. However, the marking of over 200 snakes sets the stage for collecting data on growth and longevity in the coming years. This study complements the work on the rice padi snake (Enhydris plumbea), done by Voris and Karns in Sabah, and provides a more complete picture of the life history of homalopsine snakes.

UTAH LIKE SOUTHEAST ASIA OR EAST AFRICA?

Associate Curator **Larry Heaney** (Zoology, Mammals) recently returned from two weeks of field work on mammals in the Wasatch Plateau of central Utah. The project, carried out in collaboration with Research Associate **Eric Rickart** (Zoology, and Curator of Vertebrates at the Utah Museum of Natural History), focused on assessing variation in species richness of mammals along the elevational gradient from desert (at 5000 feet) to alpine forest (up to 10,500 feet). The results showed clear evidence of maximum species richness at the middle elevations (ca. 8,000 feet), with lower numbers of species at both lower (hotter and drier) and higher (colder

Staff Survey: Facilities for Those Who Bicycle and/or Run

To all staff:

The Department of Facility Planning and Operations is considering improvements to existing facilities that could used by those who bicycle to work, or who bicycle, run, jog, or exercise while on their lunch hour. As an institution dedicated to exploring and protecting our environment, The Field Museum has an interest in promoting non-polluting alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycling. In addition, the Museum, like all institutions, has an interest in promoting the health of its employees.

In light of these concerns, FP&O is considering a range of improvements. Budget constraints permitting, these might include increasing our capacity for indoor bicycle parking/locking, renovating and/or increasing the number of showers available for staff use, and increasing the number of lockers available for staff use.

FP&O, in conjunction with a group of interested employees, has put together this questionnaire to assess the need for such facilities. Please take a moment to respond to this survey and place it in interoffice mail to **John Mazza, Facility Planning**, by Friday, Aug. 8.

1. Do you bicycle to work? __ yes __ no

2. Do you run, jog, or bicycle while on break during the work day? __ yes __ no

3. If so, how frequently? _____

4. Where do you store your bicycle now? _____

5. Do you now have a locker? __ yes __ no

6. Which of the following facilities would you use, if they were available? Please rate this list of facilities (1 = crucial, 2 = necessary, 3 = helpful, 4 = of benefit, but lower priority)
   -- secure indoor bicycle parking ___
   -- shower facilities ___
   -- lockers ___
   -- other (please describe:) ___ _____

7. Your gender: __ female __ male

8. Any other comments/suggestions? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your input

1997

August

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Goldman Foundation; SFH/balcony 6:30pm-12:00am; 400 MR	**2** System Sensor; SFH/Balcony 7:00PM-10:00PM 2000 MR *SF-Pan Am Fest*
3 Farmers Market MR *SF-Pan Am Fest*	**4** MR	**5** Nat. Marine Ed. Assoc. SFH/JST 4:00pm-10:00pm MR	**6** MR	**7** Museum Open to Public; 5-9pm MR	**8** Overnight MR	**9** Kim/Lim Wedding; SFH 275 6:00PM-12:00 AM K. Webber –JST- 2:00pm 300 *SF-Soccer*
10 MR	**11** MR	**12** MR	**13** CAndresen;entire museum 5:00pm-9:00am; 150 MR	**14** Museum Open to Public; 5-9pm MR	**15** MR	**16** 6:30pm-12:30am Martin Wedding Reception; SFH 350 MR *SF-Bear's Game (7pm)*
17 KWebber; Entire Museum 6:00pm-9:00pm MR	**18** MR	**19** Dev-Ashapiro – SFH/RICE 6:00pm-10:00pm MR	**20** MR T	**21** Museum Open to Public; 5-9pm MR	**22** DRoder-Rice 4:00pm-10:00pm MR **AIR & WATER SHOW** *SF-Bear's Game*	**23** **AIR & WATER SHOW** MR *SF-College Football 11:00am-2:00pm*
24 T-LAURIE **AIR & WATER SHOW** MR	**25** MR	**26** Gates-Arrow Dist SFH 6:30pm-10:30pm 150 MR *SF-Soccer*	**27** MR *SF-Soccer*	**28** Museum Open to Public; 5-9pm MR	**29** MR	**30** Assoc of Indians in AmericaSFH 800 6:00pm- 12:30am *SF-Chicago Classic* MR
31 Farmers Market JAZZ FEST T-Carol MR SFH						

07/30/9

"BOOK-ABLE" SPACES IN FIELD MUSEUM
1/6/95

SPACE	LOC	MAX	USE	SCHEDULE BY	CONTACT	EXT.	
Classroom 1	GF	50	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 2	GF	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 3	GF	30	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Conf. Room 1	GF	20	I	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room A	GF	16	I	Instit. Adv.	Adam Shapiro	617	Restricted use
Dining Room B	GF	4	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C	GF	6	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C/D	GF	20	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room D	GF	12	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room E	GF	75	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
D&P Conf. Room	4th	10	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Educ. Conf. Room	GF	14	I S	Education	Clara Aytch-Baker	247	
Developers Conf. Rm.	4th	8	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Founder's Room	1st	100	I S	Tours	Dorothy Roder	862	Restricted use
Montgomery Ward H.	GF	150	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Lecture Hall II	GF	75	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic East (Sch)	GF	320	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic West (Pub)	GF	125	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Rice Center	1st		P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Simpson Theatre	GF	1000	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Zoology Clrm.	3rd	50	I	Zoology	Norann Miller	255	
Webber Resource	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Maori Meeting House	2nd	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Pawnee Earth Lodge	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Place for Wonder	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Stanley Field Hall	1st	35	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
EXHIBIT HALL: Permanent Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	} Exhibits Dept.
EXHIBIT HALLS: Special Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	} consulted prior to confirmation

I = Internal (meetings, etc.)
P = Public (Programs, Classes, etc.)
S = Special Events

and wetter) elevations. Because this runs contrary to the conventional wisdom that species richness is highest in the lowlands, and is similar to patterns that we've seen in Southeast Asia and East Africa, the results are of considerable interest. Incidentally, the field crew included **Gina Wesley,** recently an intern through the Field Museum's Scholarship Program working with Associate Curator **Greg Mueller** (Botany) and currently about to begin graduate studies at the University of Chicago's Committee on Evolutionary Biology.

NORTHWESTERN COMES TO THE FIELD

On July 15, students involved in the minority summer research program at Northwestern were given a special opportunity to see the research and collections areas of The Field Museum. The research program is designed to help high school students learn science techniques and practices beyond what they can lean in the classroom. The tour included botany with Associate Curator **Greg Mueller,** insects with Curatorial Assistant **Phil Parillo,** paleomagnetics with Collections Manager **Clarita Nuñez,** amphibians and reptiles with Collection Manager **Al Resetar,** paleobotany with graduate student **Susana Magallon-Puebla,** and mammals with Technical Assistant **Michi Solomon.**

VOIGHT SURVEYS UNDERWATER VOLCANOES AND MOBILE PREDATORS

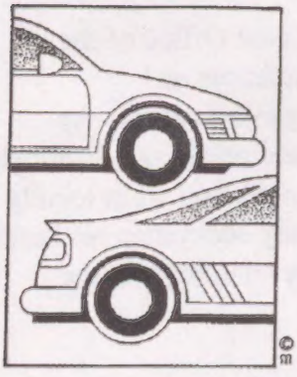
Associate Curator **Janet Voight** (Zoology, Invertebrates) recently returned from two weeks at sea aboard the Canadian Coast Guard research vessel the John B. Tully based in Victoria, British Columbia. The cruise was devoted to geological and biological studies of Axial Seamount, a volcano 1543 m below the sea surface approximately 250 miles west of Astoria, Oregon.

Voight's participation in the cruise was funded by a grant from the West Coast Office of the National Undersea Research Program to support her research of mobile predators at hydrothermal vents. Hydrothermal vents are areas of the sea floor where geological activity draws seawater under the sea floor where it is heated, chemically altered and released. Although hydrothermal fluid would be toxic to us, animals that live at the vents flourish, and form locally dense ecosystems. These specially adapted animals are members of the only ecosystem on Earth fueled by bacteria rather than plants. The bacteria break down some of the chemicals in the emerging water, making that energy available to other animals.

To study life on the seamount, cruise participants used the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) ROPOS. The vehicle is connected by fiber optic cables to computers on the ship and provides real-time video of the sea floor, while the researchers huddle around TV monitors and decide what to do next. The cruise was dedicated to surveying the status of the technically active seamount and included Voight, Verena Tunnicliffe and students from the University of Victoria (British Columbia), S. Kim Juniper and students from the Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Bob Embley and Gary Massoth from NOAA. Most hydrothermal vents in the Northeast Pacific are at abyssal depths (over 2000 m); Axial, however, is only about 1540 m deep. Increased seismic activity suggests that the volcano will become active in the near future. Surveying the extent of hydrothermal activity is a means to assess its current status.

Voight's research program had a set-back when few mobile predators were seen on any of the dives to the Axial vents. She succeeded, however, in collecting a large clump of tube worms, a group that exists only at these chemically unusual habitats. With the worms and their tubes are thousands of gastropods, copepods and polychaete worms. Voight, along with Collection Manager **John Slapcinsky,** Technician **Jim Pulizzi,** and volunteers **Henry Greenwald** and **Edwin Kapus** (all Zoology) are -- and will be for the next several weeks -- sorting members of the different taxa presented in this single collection to prepare the material for addition to the Invertebrate Collections and to enable it to help us better understand the evolution of this hydrothermal ecosystem. The opportunity to participate in this sorting process has given one and all a unique appreciation of the enormously high density of animals that occur at hydrothermal vents and other similar habitats.

In addition to supporting her participation in this cruise, the West Coast Office of the National Undersea Research Center recently awarded Voight travel support to present results of her research concerning endemic and opportunistic predators at hydrothermal vents at the Eighth Deep-Sea Biology Symposium to be held in Monterey, California in September.



PARKING *PERMIT* PROBLEMS?

For policy issues -- go to Human Resources

For accounting issues *only* -- go to Accounting

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.